

**TOWN OF AMHERST
HUMAN RIGHTCOMMISSION
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2010**

PRESENT: Chair: Reynolds Winslow, Human Rights Director: Eunice Torres, Commissioners: Kathleen Anderson, Stefan Cejic, Frank Gatti, Josiah Litant, Victoria Oliva, Lois Raj

REGRETS: Daniel Lee, Mohamed Elgadi

MINUTES REVIEW:

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

AGENDA:

Today's agenda was reviewed.
There was no guest speaker.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hero's Group Award: Frank Gatti is concerned that, with the change in the superintendent, this will not be given attention. He will speak with Maria Geryk about this.

Progress on newspaper article: Mr. Winslow will draft the article, but welcomes input from all wishing to share ideas. He will address the issues raised about the dismissal of the superintendent.

December 10th, 12th Declaration of Human Rights Day: Speakers should be lined up. Some names suggested:

Mr. Litant will look into joining forces with the Five Colleges.

The possibility of a mid-week vigil and a Saturday program were discussed. Collaboration with Sage, H.S. groups, and Class Action was suggested.

Frank Gatti expressed concern that we are “losing the generation” who were key players in the equal rights struggle and recommended a “retrospective” program.

MLK Celebration: Collaboration with other community groups was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Superintendent of Schools: Update Re: Dr. Rodriguez: The general consensus was that public information was vague, but the possibility was raised that there might have been some more serious issues involved. It was noted that some in town were resistant from the beginning to him and his plans for change.

Ms. Oliva stated that many were impressed that Dr. Rodriguez’s messages were in Spanish as well as English.

Presentations by Dr. Ruth Hook and Dr. Muspratt will not be scheduled at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Oliva was unanimously (s)elected as Co-chair.

Spring Retreat: We have money until June 30, 2010. Tentative date: May 1, 2010. We need to engage a facilitator

Frank Gatti noted that the “Warming Center” went well.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Two complaints pending: One referred to a more appropriate venue.
The other is still being followed up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Enchanted Theater: Free (Invitation) Presentation of Sojourner Truth@
Academy 4/1/10.

The swearing in of Amherst Fire Chief, March 22, 2010, 3 PM at Valentine
Hall.

NEXT MEETING: April 15, 2010 Meeting adjourned: 8:15 pm